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STATE FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/10/2017

TAGS: [GG](#) [NATO](#) [PREL](#) [RS](#) [NL](#)

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/GEORGIA: RESPONSE TO POTENTIAL NAC  
TRIP TO GEORGIA DEMARCHE

REF: STATE 125337

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew Schofer, reasons 1.4 (b,d)

¶11. (C) The GONL is not opposed in principle to a North Atlantic Council (NAC) trip to Tbilisi, but has reservations regarding the prospects of joining NATO SYG de Hoop Scheffer in his trip to Georgia in October. According to MFA NATO Advisor Mark Versteden, the GONL is reluctant to "antagonize Russia" with a NAC trip to Tbilisi so soon after the recent missile incident. He acknowledged reftel points on prior trips to Russia and Georgia, and the "bad timing" with upcoming Russia Duma and presidential elections -- he said he would raise the points with senior ministry officials prior to the September 11 NAC. Versteden discussed reftel points with polmilloff on September 7.

Arnall